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1992-2012
20 YEARS STRONG

Behavioral Health is Essential To Health

Prevention Works

Treatment is Effective

People Recover

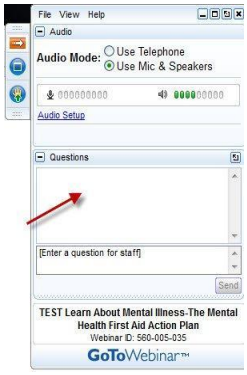
SAMHSA-HRSA CENTER for INTEGRATED HEALTH SOLUTIONS

SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access and Recovery (SOAR)

Kristin Lupfer, M.S.W.
Project Director
SAMHSA SOAR TA Center
Policy Research Associates, Inc.
October 17, 2017

SAMHSA HRSA Health Resources & Services Administration
integration.samhsa.gov

How to ask a question during the webinar



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SOAR WORKS

SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access and Recovery (SOAR)

KRISTIN LUPFER, M.S.W., PROJECT DIRECTOR, SOAR TA CENTER

Sponsored By:
Substance Abuse And Mental Health Services Administration
U.S. Department Of Health And Human Services

OCTOBER 17, 2017

SAMHSA

Disclaimer and Conflicts of Interest

DISCLAIMER:

The views, opinions, and content expressed in this presentation do not necessarily reflect the views, opinions, or policies of the Center for Mental Health Services (CMHS), the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), or the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST:

The presenter, Kristin Lupfer, M.S.W., has no financial conflicts of interest to disclose.

What is SOAR?

- A model for assisting eligible individuals to apply for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI)
- Focus is on adults who are experiencing or at-risk of homelessness and have a mental illness, co-occurring substance use disorder, or other physical disabilities
- Sponsored by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) in collaboration with the Social Security Administration (SSA) since 2005
- All 50 states, Washington, D.C. and Puerto Rico currently participate, and territories (Northern Marianas) to the extent they are eligible for receiving SSI and SSDI benefits

Social Security Disability Benefits

The Basics

SSI & SSDI: The Basics

Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
Needs based; federal benefit rate is $735 (2017); provides Medicaid in most states

Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI)
Amount depends on earnings put into SSA system; Medicare generally provided after 2 years of eligibility

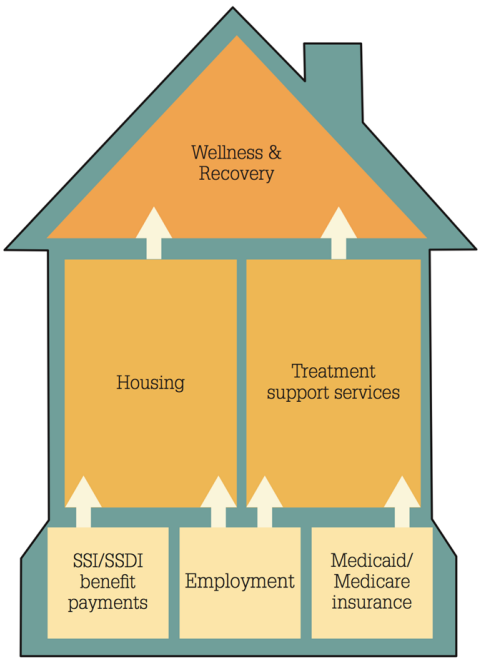
SSA's Definition of Disability

1. Medically Determinable Physical or Mental Impairment
2. Duration
3. Functional Impairment

Substantial Gainful Activity (SGA) = $1,170/month (2017*)

SSI/SSDI Provides a Foundation for Recovery

- Ending homelessness
- Decreasing incarcerations and hospitalizations
- Increasing employment opportunities



Why are SSI/SSDI & Medicaid Important to Communities?

Bring federal dollars into states, localities and community programs:

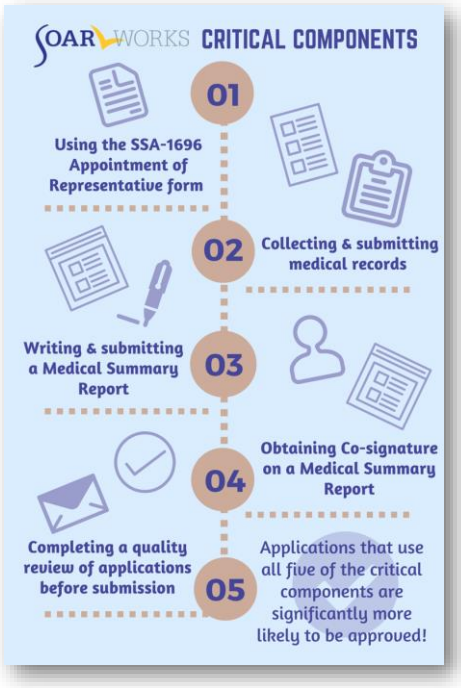
- Health providers can recoup cost of uncompensated care
- States and localities can recoup the cost of public assistance
- Cash benefits and back payments received by individuals is spent in the local community

The SOAR Model

How Does SOAR Work?

What Makes SOAR Unique?

Community Collaborations are also critical components of SOAR success!



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SOAR WORKS

Community Collaborations

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SOAR WORKS

SOAR TA Center
- Facilitates strategic planning meetings
- Conducts Leadership Academies, webinars, & learning communities
- Develops resources, including SOARWorks, the SOAR Online Course, and OAT
- Provides TA at all stages of SOAR implementation

State Team Lead
- Facilitates state steering committee
- Directs plans to grow & sustain statewide activities
- Serves as liaison to localities
- Maintains relationships with SSA & DDS
- Submits SOAR outcomes to the TA Center

Local Lead
- Facilitates local steering committee
- Directs local implementation plans
- Facilitates SOAR Online Course cohorts
- Conducts SOAR Fundamentals trainings
- Ensures quality applications & reports outcomes

Case Manager
- Completes high-quality SSI & SSDI applications using the SOAR model
- Communicates with local SSA & DDS representatives
- Tracks application outcomes

- Ambassadors for the SOAR initiative
- United in ending homelessness for individuals with disabling conditions

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SOAR WORKS

SOAR TA Center Activities and Support

- SOAR Online Course
- SOAR Leadership Academy
- SOAR Online Application Tracking (OAT) Program
- SOARWorks Library
- SOAR Voices Blog
- SOARing Over Lunch
- SOAR eNews
- Bi-Monthly Webinars

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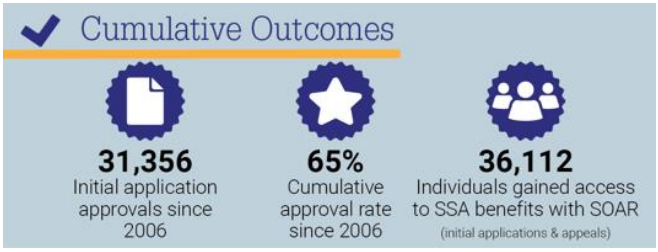
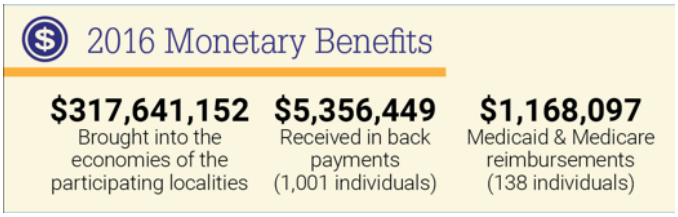
SOAR Works!





SOAR Online Course

An Overview

SOAR Online Course

Articles & Content

&

Practice Case Component

Benefits of the SOAR Online Course

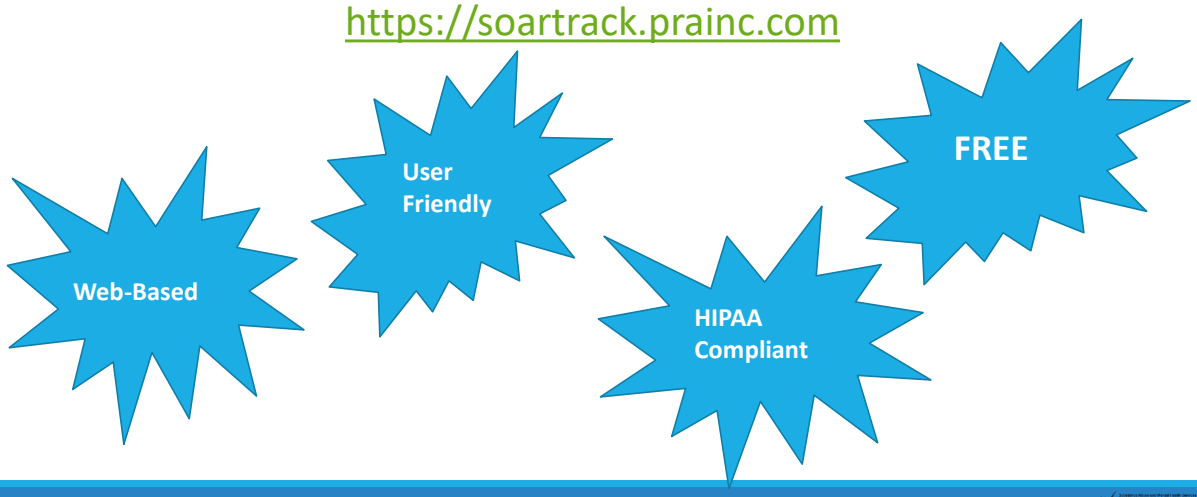
- Standardized training across all geographic areas
- Allows SOAR Leaders to coordinate follow-up training and support
- 20 NASW CEUs
- FREE, web-based, self-guided

Tracking Outcomes

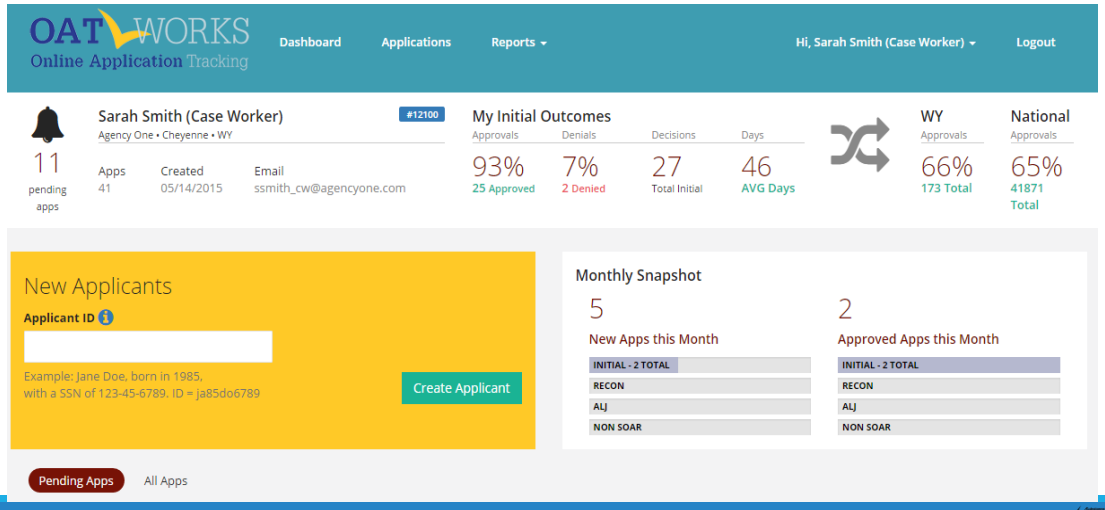
Got outcomes? Get funding!

Online Application Tracking (OAT)

https://soartrack.prainc.com



Case Worker Dashboard



Outcomes Tracked in OAT

Outcomes for Initial Applications & Appeals

Approval Rates

Time to Decision

SOAR Critical Components

Additional Outcomes

Housing

Employment

Medicaid/Public Benefit Reimbursements

Next Steps

That sounds great, what's next?

Next Steps

- ✓Learn more about SOAR
- ✓Get in touch with your SOAR TA Center liaison
- ✓Reach out to your local or state SOAR leads
- ✓Register for the SOAR Online Course

SOAR TA Center - State Liaisons

https://soarworks.prainc.com/directory

Connect with Us!

Visit our website: https://soarworks.prainc.com

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Questions?

Resources

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Visit the new website:
https://www.samhsa.gov/integrated-health-solutions

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Thank you for joining us today.

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